

Standing Committee on Women & Gender Issues Meeting Notes
October 2, 2009

RSC 218

Present: Eri Fujieda, Ivy Vainio, Krisi Patterson, Janet Blair, Mary Houk, & Invited Guest Tammy Fanning

Not Present: Gloria Eslinger (due to time conflict), Brittany Miller

Selection of Committee Leadership:

The Committee unanimously decided that the Chair position should go to Eri Fujieda. Eri accepted the position. Ivy Vainio nominated herself to act as Secretary and the committee members agreed.

Eri Fujieda will set up future meetings to happen every two weeks by using the doodle.com method which worked out for everyone on the committee. Thanks Eri. It was discussed that we would meet initially every two weeks and then see how that goes and maybe change it to what works the best for everyone. There will also be email discussion interaction between committee members before the meetings to talk about upcoming agenda items to help with meeting time constraints.

A Name is Just a Name, OR is it?:

First on the today's agenda was to discuss the name of this committee. From the Committee's Charge it says the committee name is "Women's Issues Committee." As you can see from the title name of this document (top of page), another name is the "Standing Committee on Women's & Gender Issues."

It was decided that the committee members will look at the charge of the committee (handed out to us by Eri Fujieda) and brainstorm and give suggestions on changing the charge to including inclusive language that would refer to gender equity issues: not just to focus on women's issues, but men's issues, LBTQA issues, and equity/inclusivity in all facets of the university workplace.

It was brought forward that we should include "Gender" in the name, another was "Women & Gender Issues", and another "Gender Issues."

Once this committee votes and approves the updated charge and the name change, the name change will have to be brought to the governance groups for their vote: faculty senate, academic staff senate and student senate.

Women's Resource Center:

Presented by Tammi Fanning, Director of Student Life and Leadership/Asst. to Dean of Students/Director of Women's Resource Center

Tammy Fanning presented to us that the Women's Resource Center has been at UW-Superior for a very long time. At first the WRC was under the Women Studies Department, and then the

Dean of Students adopted it and then it came under the leadership of herself and she's had this role for 10 years.

The Women's Resource Center works on issues such as job equity, women being treated differently/unfairly, educating people on inequity, and sexual assault education. They would like to create outreach for men on gender issues of equity. There are other UW-University's "Women's Resource Center's" that have both male and female workers. A future position in the new Center could be possibly a male to help with this but again funding is an issue.

That the WRC has one position that is ½ time position that is filled by the Coordinator Position. That there is a need to fill an Assistant Coordinator Position. A few years ago, Student Senate approved monies to fund the WRC and that is about \$7,500.00 a year. This has helped pay for programming and the coordinator position. There are students who are staff in the WRC and they receive a student stipend.

The WRC staff would like to propose changing the name of the Women's Resource Center to something like "Gender Equity Center." Would be nice if it would it could have a nice acronym but doesn't need to. They like the idea of "Gender Equity ..." for the name because the issues concerning female, male, LGBTQA are related, interconnected and inclusive.

The WRC will move temporarily into a room that will be in the Rothwell Student Center Library and then it will move into a larger space when the Swenson Academic Building is completed. It will have a large lobby area, an office space, a private area for nursing mothers or people needing a quiet space.

The WRC needs to have an Advisory Council and it was brought forward that our committee could meet with the WRC Coordinator and/or be the Advisory Council for the WRC. *(Is this right folks??? I couldn't keep track of this conversation...sorry. Maybe I shouldn't be secretary. Smiles. J/K.)*

Rankin Study:

UW-Superior has been approved to conduct this inclusive climate survey on our campus with faculty, staff and students. The Chancellor found some money to fund the study.

We need to campaign this study to faculty (Department Chairs), academic staff, classified staff and students (Juniors and Seniors would be a great group to "target"). We need to get people to participate.

The potential organizing group that may take this on is the Inclusive Excellence Task Force. Regardless of who leads this survey, our committee will need to work with them and get the word out about this study/survey.

Affirmative Action and Women & Gender Issues Coordinator Positions VOID:

Eri Fujieda will talk with the Affirmative Action committee to see what steps are being done to ensure what is being done to support the compliance and programming par to this position. Eri spoke of the difficulty of having one position to work on compliance and programming.

Child Care:

Child care issues are being handled presently by the Child Care Advisory Council. Eri Fujieda will talk with the Chair of this Council but for now our committee will put it aside until we are needed to work on it.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:55 AM.

Submitted by Ivy Vainio